

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**  
as part of the German Dance Award 2024

**Dieter Heitkamp**



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**Short Biography – Dieter Heitkamp**

Dieter Heitkamp studied sports and biology at the Free University of Berlin and art education at the Berlin University of the Arts (HdK, class of Dieter Appelt). In 1977 he began dance training in contact improvisation, improvisation and performance, various modern, contemporary, release and alignment-oriented techniques as well as body-mind centering and other body awareness methods.

He was a founding member of Tanzfabrik Berlin e.V., working there as a dancer, choreographer, teacher and organizer from 1978 to 1998 and was also one of the artistic directors until 1995. During this time, he created eighteen full-length pieces for Tanzfabrik Berlin.

His choreographies have been shown throughout Germany, in fourteen European countries as well as in Brazil, Hong Kong, Japan, Canada, Russia, the USA and Vietnam.

Other choreographies include "Pizza Girl" (Ballett Frankfurt), for theater productions at the Freie Volksbühne Berlin (Peter Palitzsch, Holger Schultze), for dance and documentary films and TV as well as choreography and stage design for "Le Disperazioni del Signor Pulcinella" by Hans Werner Henze (Staatsballett Berlin).

In 2001, he was appointed Professor of Contemporary Dance at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts (HfMDK) and was Director of the Dance Department until 2023. He was a founding member of the Hessian Theater Academy and from 2006 - 2015 on the management team of Tanzlabor\_21/Tanzbasis Frankfurt\_Rhein\_Main. In these roles, he established two Master's programs, the MA CoDE at the HfMDK and the MA CuP at the Justus-Liebig University Giessen.

From 2007 - 2014, he was a spokesperson for the Dance Education Conference (AK|T) and Artistic Director of the 3rd Dance Education Biennale 2012 Frankfurt am Main.

From 1998 - 2023, he developed over 70 pieces/choreographies/lecture performances with students, including interdisciplinary, site-specific large-scale projects with the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie, the International Ensemble Modern Academy, the hr Big Band and the Fauré Quartet.

He has been a guest lecturer at many German dance academies and has taught courses internationally in China, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Colombia, the Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Portugal, Russia, Switzerland, Spain and Vietnam.

His artistic work is characterized by clear, experimentally innovative concepts and consistent movement research that investigates communication possibilities in / about / through dance in social environments. He combines theoretical aspects with physical practice, writing with choreography, and from this creates spaces of image, sound and possibility. In his choreographies, interdisciplinary lecture performances and installations, movement and word, visuality and sound, the sensual and the cognitive are brought together to form a synthesis in such a way that the performers as well as the audience are constantly active on several physical and sensory levels.

Press Contact

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